

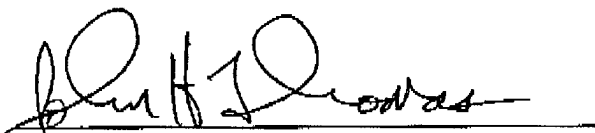
REMARKS

During the interview today with Examiner Weber, the undersigned and Dr. Marcus Carr, a named inventor were present. There was a thorough discussion of the present invention and the prior art -- specifically the Tranquillo and Torbet references. After some discussion, it was agreed that the language set forth in the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 6 would be sufficient to render the claims allowable over the Tranquillo reference. (Claim 20 has been cancelled in view of the amendment to claim 6.)

Applicant now submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested hereon.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2127.

Respectfully Submitted,

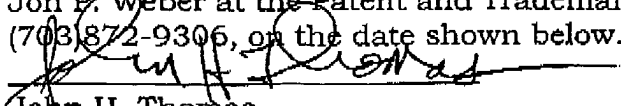

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Date: January 6, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Jon B. Weber at the Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9306, on the date shown below.


John H. Thomas
Date: January 6, 2004